

Amendment and Response
Serial No. 09/920,439

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A sole for an article of footwear, the sole comprising:

a sole layer having a ground engaging surface; and

a discrete continuous mesh layer partially embedded in the sole layer and partially continuously exposed along the ground engaging surface.

Claim 2 (original): The sole of claim 1, wherein the mesh layer comprises a contoured surface.

Claim 3 (original): The sole of claim 1, wherein the mesh layer comprises a knit structure formed from thread.

Claim 4 (original): The sole of claim 3, wherein the thread comprises a plurality of spun fibers.

Claim 5 (original): The sole of claim 1, wherein the mesh comprises a material selected from the group consisting of metals, polyesters, polyamides, aramids, and combinations thereof.

Claim 6 (original): The sole of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the mesh layer extends beyond a bottom surface of the sole layer.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The sole of claim 1, wherein the mesh layer is substantially ~~coterminus~~ coterminous with a bottom surface of the sole layer.

Claim 8 (original): The sole of claim 1, wherein the sole layer comprises a profile groove defined by a bottom surface of the sole layer.

Claim 9 (original): The sole of claim 1, wherein the sole layer comprises a damping material.

Claim 10 (original): The sole of claim 9, wherein the damping material comprises a material selected from the group consisting of ethylene vinyl acetate, polyurethane, rubber, and combinations thereof.

Claim 11 (currently amended): An article of footwear comprising:

an upper;

a sole layer attached to the upper, the sole layer having a ground engaging surface; and

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a discrete continuous mesh layer partially embedded in the sole layer and partially continuously exposed along the ground engaging surface.

Claim 12 (original): The article of claim 11, wherein the mesh layer comprises a contoured surface.

Claim 13 (original): The article of claim 11, wherein the mesh layer comprises a knit structure formed from thread.

Claim 14 (original): The article of claim 13, wherein the thread comprises a plurality of spun fibers.

Claim 15 (original): The article of claim 11, wherein the mesh comprises a material selected from the group consisting of metals, polyesters, polyamides, aramids, and combinations thereof.

Claim 16 (original): The article of claim 11, wherein at least a portion of the mesh layer extends beyond a bottom surface of the sole layer.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The article of claim 11, wherein the mesh layer is substantially ~~coterminus~~ coterminous with a bottom surface of the sole layer.

Claim 18 (original): The article of claim 11, wherein the sole layer comprises a profile groove defined by a bottom surface of the sole layer.

Claim 19 (original): The article of claim 11, wherein the sole layer comprises a damping material.

Claim 20 (original): The article of claim 19, wherein the damping material comprises a material selected from the group consisting of ethylene vinyl acetate, polyurethane, rubber, and combinations thereof.

Claims 21-36 (cancelled)

Claim 37 (previously presented): The sole of claim 1, wherein the mesh layer extends along substantially an entire length of a bottom surface of the sole layer.

Claim 38 (previously presented): The article of claim 11, wherein the mesh layer extends along substantially an entire length of a bottom surface of the sole layer.

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Claim 39 (new): The sole of claim 1, wherein the mesh layer extends along a front surface of the sole layer.

Claim 40 (new): The sole of claim 1, wherein the mesh layer extends along a side surface of the sole layer.

Claim 41 (new): The article of claim 11, wherein the mesh layer extends along a front surface of the sole layer.

Claim 42 (new): The article of claim 11, wherein the mesh layer extends along a side surface of the sole layer.
